

The Wobbly Oscillator



Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

August 2022

Volume 52

Number 8



From The Prez

Bill Brown, N8BBB, Superhero

Master Field Day chef, Bill Brown, N8BBB, completed his last culinary extravaganza this past June at the 2022 CARS Field Day event. He will be entering a well-deserved retirement leaving a legacy of club service that will go unmatched. Bill began providing CARS Field Day participants with five-star quality meals in 2007. He prepares an excellent lunch on Saturday, a fantastic dinner later in the day, food for the all-night operators, and tops it off with a Sunday breakfast Bob Evans could never equal.

Members should realize what Bill puts into the Field Day food preparation. He does all the shopping acquiring the necessary groceries and supplies. He brings all the cooking equipment including his cook stove, electric hot plates, crock pots, griddles, and warming pans. Bill starts dinner right after lunch. His entrees are phenomenal; be it lasagna, pulled pork, or beef brisket. All are welcome to his dinners, operators, helpers, and visitors. He makes sure the troops are well fed overnight; his beef vegetable soup is a staple nighttime participants love, requesting him to make it again every year.

Bill never leaves the site; he pitches his tent and stays the course. He gets up early Sunday and starts breakfast at the crack of dawn. Those who stay the night, or those who come early are treated to a hearty meal. Bill really outdoes himself as the sun comes up. He cooks eggs to order, any way people want, including omelets. That's just for starters. Hash browns, pancakes, and sausage are extras he whips up to add to the main meal. Those of us who stay all night are fueled by his fantastic Sunday morning bill of fare.

Bill continues, cleaning his equipment and packing up after breakfast. He does it all. It has been said "an army travels on its stomach", and a Field Day crew is not much different; but instead of a team of KPs, the CARS FD group is supported by one very special man: Bill Brown, N8BBB.

Thank you, Sir.

We appreciate what you've done more than words can express.



CARS Scholarships

This year CARS awarded two scholarships of \$750 to two very deserving high school graduates who will be starting college in the fall.

Danielle Robbins, granddaughter of Bob Robbins, K8RGI, and Molly Kolman, granddaughter of Toby Kolman, WT8O, were the recipients of the CARS scholarships this year. Both young ladies had exceptional high school records, as well as a considerable involvement in extracurricular activities. They both were standouts in their high school careers.

We wish success to both young ladies in their future endeavors.

The scholarships are a great thing CARS does as part of an ARRL Special Service Club.

[Masthead photo taken by CARS member Jody Shankland, KE8JVA]

73, Toby, WT8O

July Meeting Minutes

LOCATION---The meeting was held July 12th, at the Harriett Keeler Picnic Pavilion in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks.

CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE---Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTIONS---Those present introduced themselves. 21 individuals attended the meeting, including three guests.

JUNE MINUTES---The June minutes were approved as published in the WO, with a correction that NC8J's (SK) first name is Joe, not John.



TREASURER'S REPORT---Bob Robbins, K8RGI, reported on the club's current financial situation. No issues or concerns were identified. The Club received two donations to the scholarship fund - one anonymously and one from Ron's, K8VJG's (SK), daughter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Toby Kolman, WT8O, reported:

- Congratulations to Matt, KE8OZU, for upgrading to General
- Thanks to Matt, KB8UCH, for volunteering to be the backup secretary
- Thanks to David, AC8TN, for volunteering to be a Net Control Station
- The website will be updated to include a members-only section listing available tools and equipment
- Duane, KE8HXX (SK), has equipment for sale that will be listed in the WO. Please contact Lynn Lorens to purchase it. **[List of equipment is in this issue, contact Metro, W8MET to purchase.]**
- Please sign in on the sign-in sheet

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Ron Hollas, K8RJH, reported:

- The WO is getting better every month. Please send Toby, WT8O, your contributions.
- The FCC CORES website will be updated on July 15. Everyone is encouraged to use the new website, while the old website is retired. The ARRL has additional information on how to use the new website. Metro, W8MET, reminded everyone that you have 10 days to pay the FCC when fees are due.
- ARRL podcasts are now available on Apple, Blubrry, Stitcher and Alexa.

SECRETARY'S REPORT---Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, had nothing to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE---Eddie, KD8FTS, reported that public service opportunities can be found on the N8ESG website (<https://n8esg.org/>). Upcoming opportunities include the Pan Ohio Hope Ride July 21-24 and the MS150 Buckeye Breakaway August 6-7. Please volunteer to help so that amateur radio continues to add value to our communities. Toby, WT8O, added that the Twin Sizzler Bike Race on July 4th was a big success and no one was hurt during the race.

VE UPDATE---Metro, W8MET, reported that CARS held a VE Session on July 10, which resulted in two general upgrades and one extra upgrade. The next CARS VE Session will be on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 9:15 AM at the Old Rec Center in Independence.



The club enjoyed a beautiful summer evening for the July meeting.



Scott, AC8NW, cooks it up.

FIELD DAY---Bob, K8RGI, reported that Field Day was a success. 29 hams participated in the event and received certificates during the meeting. The club scored 9,366 points during the event with 606 CW contacts, 440 SSB contacts and 1,030 digital contacts. Field Day 2023 will be June 24-25. The goals for next year's Field Day are to:

1. Increase participation of both members and non-members.
2. Add CW operators. To assist with this, David, AC8TN, and Ron, K8RJH, will be teaching a CW class starting later this year.
3. Provide additional marketing materials during the event, including paper-based and electronic

PROGRAM COMMITTEE---Joe, KD8BAL, reported:

- Today's program is John, NU8Y, and his daughter, Rita, presenting on their experience with the Merchant Marine Academy
- August's program is to be announced
- Please send ideas for programs to Joe

TECH COMMITTEE---Scott, AC8NW, had nothing to report.

REFRESHMENTS---Toby, WT8O, thanked Ron, K8RJH, for providing soft drinks, Matt, KB8UCH, for providing doughnuts, and Shawn, KE8RMV, for providing coffee for in person meetings. Coffee is on hold for the summer. The club is considering purchasing a Keurig instead of providing brewed coffee.

OLD BUSINESS---Toby, WT8O, reported that:

- The Club needs a historian. Terry, KB8DTC, is the Club Archivist. Toby is meeting with Ted, K8TED, and Jerry, NW9H, soon to discuss club history.
- The Club needs a quartermaster. The Club's equipment can be stored at Bob's, W8GC's, rental property in North Royalton.
- The Club needs ideas for fundraisers. Please let Toby know if you have any ideas.

NEW BUSINESS---Toby, WT8O, reported that:

- David, AC8TN, and Ron, K8RJH, will be teaching a CW class later this year. David and Ron provided an overview of the class to the Club, along with a printed flyer for the class. The class is tentatively scheduled to start in October. The goal of the class is to get to 15-20 wpm so operators can participate in Field Day 2023. Participants should not expect to become experts in CW and conduct a one-hour QSO entirely with CW. The class will be hands-on. Participants will need an oscillator and key, which many modern radios provide. Please contact David or Ron to sign up.

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, August 9 - 7:30 PM

Harriet Keeler Picnic Area Brecksville Reservation

See Website for Details & Map

www.2cars.org

- Toby is planning to retire as the newsletter editor in December. Before he can retire, someone needs to volunteer to produce the monthly newsletter. Please let Toby know if you are interested.
- Ron, K8RJH, reported that help is needed for Jamboree on the Air October 14-16 this year. This event introduces Boy Scouts to HF phone. Bob, K8RGI, and Bob, KC8MRC, volunteered to help with the event.

NEXT MEETING---The next meeting of The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be on August 9, 2022. The meeting is scheduled at the Harriett Keeler Picnic Pavilion in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks.

50/50 DRAWING---Scott, AC8NW, won the 50/50 drawing.

ADJOURNMENT---The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

After the meeting, John, NU8Y, and his daughter, Rita, presented on their experience with the Merchant Marine Academy (*at right*).



August Net Sked

AUG	3	AC8NW
AUG	10	WT8O
AUG	17	K8RJH
AUG	24	KD8ACO
AUG	31	AC8NW

**Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on:**

146.820 (PL 110.9)

443.825(+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to the 146.82 Repeater

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

Allstar Node 47067

August Birthdays

Brent Grover, KS000	S-7-50
Eddie Stevens, KDSFTS	S-14
Ron Hollas, KSRJH	S-16-55
Steve Kosick, KESMAG	S-16
Tom Wayne, WBSN	S-17
Mark Rosewicz, KCSESG	S-19
Erin Austin, KDSSLV	S-22
Gene Stepanik, KESGUZ	S-22
Gerald Purcell, KCSIAU	S-24-61
Sharon Nicastro, KDSIIWQ	S-28
Fred Freer, KSIG	S-30-42

Railroad Telegraphy

Ron, K8RJH

If you are looking for a quick trip into history, consider making the short drive to Sugarcreek, Ohio, which is home to the fascinating “Age of Steam Roundhouse” working museum. Touring their collection of vintage train engines and rail equipment this summer was certainly worth the time as it also provided me insight on how the railroad network worked from the late 1800’s into the modern era.

A 1900’s railroad dispatcher’s table caught my interest that displayed train orders and completed message pads. Using these forms, a Dispatcher could message other rail stations and trains using Morse code key to send by hand and receiving the reply on a Morse sounder while typing the reply on a “Standard Visible Writer” typewriter. What follows is a brief history summary on the “Railroad Telegrapher” I learned after the museum visit just researching the objects noted on this desk.

Two Morse Codes

Most amateurs know that there were two Morse Codes in use throughout America during the past 100 years. The first was the International Morse Code, which was used by “Ham Radio Operators”, ships at sea, and the military Army, Navy, and Air Force and still in use today.

The second Morse Code was the “The American Morse Code” used by North American Railroads. The Railroad Code had 10 letters different between these 2 codes. The differences noted were the following letters and all digits EXCEPT the number 4. The differing letters are “F, J, L, O, P, Q, R, X, Y, and Z”. These were adopted into railroad telegraphy as it better suited the messaging content and using the telegraph sounders available in the 1800’s.



The Age of Steam Roadhouse in Sugarcreek Ohio contains over 20 historic Steam locomotives with excellent tour packages available for every Rail Fan interest. Suggest booking the date, time, and tour type prior to arrival.

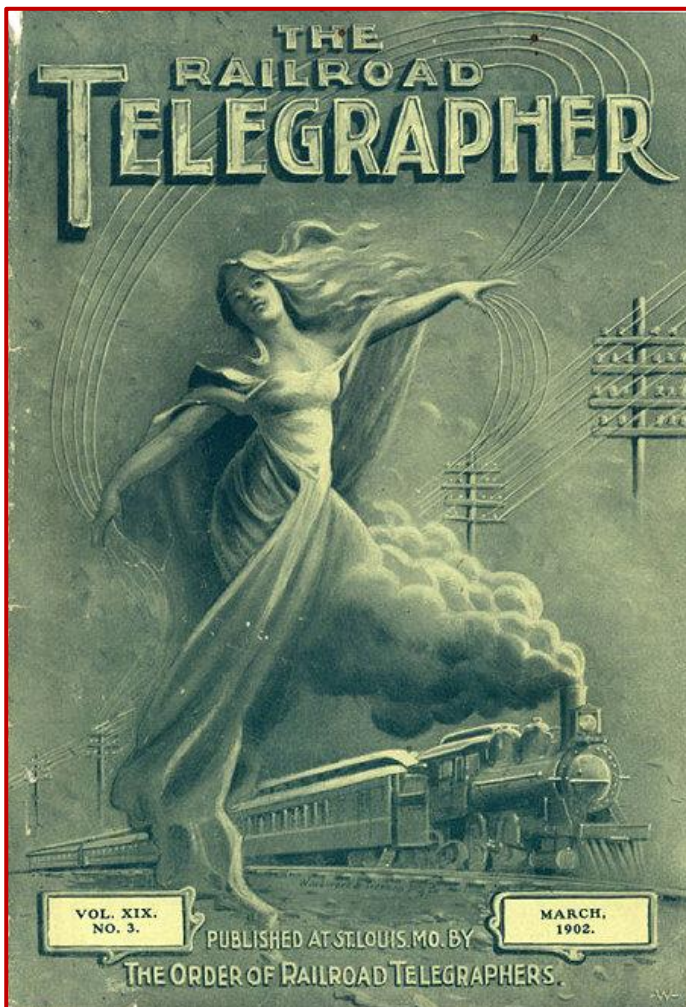
The Railroad Telegrapher

Starting with the first commercial use of Railroad Telegraph in 1851 with the Erie Railroad, the nostalgic "Age of Steam" was born and the Railroad Telegrapher suddenly became a very important to its operation. He was the middleman between the Train Dispatcher and the employees on all the trains. The early Railroads also required communication from all their railhead construction sites to their headquarters with daily reports on how many new miles had been laid or maintained daily in its growth.

Some Railroad Telegraphers learned the code by going to Telegraph Schools. Others became Assistant Agents and learned from the Agent and practiced on the Telegraph key and memorized the Railroad Rule Book while off-duty. If they passed the Rule Book Exam, then they could be sent out as relief Telegraphers until obtaining enough seniority to hold down a coveted permanent position.

Telegraphers were known to message "Train orders" following a specific format to eliminate any uncertainty as to their meaning and to insure accurate transmission, delivery, and observance. A typical train order might read "NO 1 ENG 10 MEET NO 2 ENG 11 AT AVON " or "NO 3 ENG 30 MEET SECOND 4 ENG 40 AT DOVER."

Another position was the Commercial Telegrapher, who handled Commercial Telegrams and Newspaper traffic, and communicated with Commercial Telegrams to the Railroad Telegrapher Agents. The experienced Railroad Telegrapher could advance his employment to becoming a Station Agent or a Train Dispatcher when his seniority allowed. The Public and the Government Officials held them all in great esteem.



A great source of information on the days of Railroad Telegraphy is available on-line and reprints of "The Railroad Telegrapher"

This publication was a monthly magazine of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers

Not surprisingly, Telegraphers at most small stations also worked for Western Union and were agents for the popular Railway Express Company (Considered to be the first parcel express agency in the United States). Commissions from Western Union and Railway Express supplemented their wages from the railroad.

In the 1920's there were as many as 78,000 members in the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, which could explain why Amateur Radio grew in this period by just using Morse code!



Another favorite Sugarcreek, Ohio site to visit is the Giant Cuckoo Clock in the Swiss Village. The functional clock is fun to watch with the family after the Train Museum experience.

Diesel Locomotives and Transistors

With the onset of Diesel Locomotives in the 1950's, Telephone and Radio Telephony systems were introduced to the railroads that gradually became the preferred means of communication. The slow acceptance with telephony in the 1940's through the 1960's was it was very expensive to upgrade an existing wire circuit from telegraph to telephone service. It typically required numerous costly vacuum tube multiplexers and amplifiers for any reasonable distance between stations. The design challenge was keeping it reliable as the telegraph circuits it replaced. With the introduction of solid-state electronics brought the conversion costs of phone circuits much lower in the 1960's. Finally, as the labor pool of Railroad Telegraphers became scarce during the economic growth years following WW2, the salaried telegraphers were naturally replaced with other technologies such as teletype and facsimile. The "voice mode" of communication used in railroads finally became an accepted operating practice by 1970. Using telephone circuits, all train crews could directly communicate to a dispatcher and other trains without the need for a telegrapher, improving access, control, management, and safety of rolling stock.

Close of an ERA

Even though by the 1960's most of the railroads started converting telegraph circuits to other modern modes of communication, several of the remaining railroad of the holdouts still had Telegraph operators. They boasted even though they could issue train orders and communication by telephone, telegraph messaging was still "much quicker" and accurate.

The last railroad telegraph circuit operating within the Continental US was with the B&O Railroad between Cumberland, MD and Connellsville, PA in 1981.

I encourage exploring many of the fine transportation museums and historic locations in our area that helped shape the modern technology that we take for granted today. It will be a great trip in time!

For additional information

"Age of Steam Roadhouse"

Web Site: <https://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.org/>

"A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE":

Woman Railroad Telegraphers as Station Agents in Pennsylvania, 1855-1960

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/27778884>

"The Radio Telegrapher" Publication: Several Internet Sources i.e. Available on Google Books

NASA Report
Bob, KC8MRC

NASA has set August 29, September 2, or September 5 as the three dates for launch of Artimus 1.

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radiopublication, if credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Analog Repeater

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.820 Repeater

Brecksville

444.75 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Analog Repeater

Not Linked to Other Repeaters

Shaker Hts.

July VE Session

Once again, Metro, W8MET, competently led his outstanding VE team consisting of Gary, N18Z; George, K8KR, and Linda, N8LRS to another successful VE Session on Sunday July 10, 2022, at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center in Independence.

Two hams upgraded to General, Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, and Garland Mathews, KE8SXJ. Michael Lancaster, KE8VAM, upgraded to Amateur Extra. We congratulate them all.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, September 11th, at **9:15 AM*** at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net

As always, walk-ins are welcome.

***Please note time change to 9:15 AM.**

KE8HXX (SK) Estate Sale

Icom IC-718	450.00
Icom IC-706 Mk 2	500.00
Kenwood TS-520	275.00
Icom power supply PS-55	120.00
Yaesu FC-901 antenna tuner	300.00
QYT-KT-8900 144/440 MHz	35.00
Pyramid power supply PS-20 (20 amp)	50.00
Microphone BM-800	25.00
Heathkit multiplier GD -125	40.00
Comanche Siltronix 1011D XCVR 10 Meter and CB (receive only)	150.00
Motorola S-1353A CB 100/10 SWR	10.00
Surecom SW-102 SWR 125-525 MHz	50.00
Vistapower supply VI-R	25.00
Pyramid 52 amp power supply PS-52KX	175.00
Microphone BM-800	25.00
Yaesu G-450A control box	100.00 (with rotor 200.00)
MFJ 949E antenna tuner	125.00
Hallicrafters S-200 receiver SWL	5.00
Hallicrafters WR-600 SWL receiver	5.00

Contact Metro, W8MET, 216-520-1320

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC

Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N

Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK

Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O

Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H

Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG, SK

Elected 5/14/19

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, SK

Elected 8/10/21

CARS 2022 Officers & Committees

Audit

K8RJH ** WT8O, WJ8WM

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

K8RJH **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

WJ8WM **, K8ARP, KD8FTU, KD8FTV

Field Day

K8RGI **, WT8O, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, WT8O, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50

KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus

KD8FTS **

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** W8GC

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8BAL ** KD8FTS, KE8OZU

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

KD8FTS **, K8ARP

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

K8RJH ** pop, NW8X ** Donuts, KE8RMV *** Coffee

Scholarship

W8GC ** K8RGI, KE8OZU, WT8O, K8RJH

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, K8RJH, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2022 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ron Hollas, K8RJH, 216-379-7440

SECRETARY

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, 216-337-1540

Alternate Secretary:

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Alternate Treasurer: Bob Robbins, K8RGI

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman:

Mark Moro WJ8WM 216-661-0342

even year executive board 2 year term

AC8NW, KB8DTC, WJ8WM

odd year executive board 2 year term

K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8FTS

License trustee

K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,

W8GC



February 5, 2022

